GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:385
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
INTRA-REGIONAL CONNECTIONS AIRLINKED
PATY RIPPLE KYNDIAH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of stations airlinked and intra-regional connections between stations in the North Eastern Region is decreasing;

(b) if so, the details of steps Government propose to take to increase air link and intra- regional connections in the region;

(c) whether a Task-Force was constituted for improving the airport infrastructure and air-links in the North East Region;

(d) if so, the details of composition of the Task-Force;

(e) whether some recommendations have been made by the Task-Force;

(f) if so, the salient features thereof; and
(g) the steps taken by the Government to introduce 50 seaters aircraft for intra-regional connectivity in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED Q.No. 385 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.8.2000.

(a) and (b): With a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions in the country, Route Dispersal Guidelines have been framed which, inter-alia, stipulate that all scheduled operators will deploy in the North East, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep Islands and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (category-II), at least 10% of their capacity deployed on Trunk Routes (category-I). Scheduled airlines are scrupulously complying with the stipulations. However, with a view to encourage small turbo-prop aircraft operation to airlink smaller and non-metro cities, it has been decided to provide Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) at international prices and notify ATF for such operations as a `declared good` under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 thereby capping rate of sales tax at 4%. Further, routes within the seven States of the North East have since been exempted from the levy of Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The composition of the Task Force was as under:-

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i)   Sh. P.V. Jayakrishnan,          Chairman
Former secretary(CA)
ii)  Sh. A.P. Singh,                  Member
Former Joint Secretary M/o CA
iii) Sh. H.S. Khola, DGCA              -do-
iv)  Sh. Manet Paes                    -do-
Commercial Director,
Indian Airlines
v)   Sh. K. Ramalingam,                -do-
Member (Planning), AAI
vi)  Sh. L.K. Ganju                    -do-
  North Eastern Council
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(e) and (f): Major recommendations relate to :

i) Development of airport infrastructure viz. construction of runways, terminal building, installation of modern navigational systems etc.

ii) improvement in air services i.e airlinking capitals of all the North Eastern states, induction of 50 seater aircraft; and

iii) tax concessions and creation of Civil Aviation Development Fund, to make air services economically viable.

(g) To encourage small (turbo-prop) aircraft to connect smaller and non-metro cities, certain steps as mentioned in reply to part (a) and (b) above have been taken. Indian Airlines is carrying out further analysis of the project report in respect of acquisition of six 50 seater aircraft. Jet Airways has five 62 seater ATR-72-500 aircraft in its fleet and has proposed to import 3 additional such aircraft. Sahara Airlines have already been permitted to import seven 30 seater EMB-120 aircraft which are yet to be imported.